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Tuesday, March 17, 1953

We arrived at Rome about midnight last night. We were an hour late leaving Paris and then whizzed along, making the journey in almost exactly three hours.

Wells Stabler and Messrs. Lombardo and Bombassei of the Government and Foreign Office, respectively, met Tommy and myself. We went to the Excelsior Hotel. This was a busy day. At 9:30 I called with Durbrow on the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs Taviani and talked to him and Magistrati. I then went to see the Minister of Industry and Commerce Signore Camp. lli. Ellsworth Bunker and I next called on the Minister of Defense Pacciardi. At 1:30 the Minister of the Budget Pella [redacted] kindly had a luncheon for me at the beautiful restaurant Valinier, in the Pincio Gardens. He had the following guests:

Under Secretary Taviani (Foreign Office)
Under Secretary Battista (Industry and Commerce)
Hon. Ivan Matteo Lombardo (EDC)
General Marras (Chief of Staff)
Ambassador Zoppi (Foreign Office)
Minister Magistrati
Minister del Balzo
Minister Corrias
The Ambassador
Mr. Parker
Mr. Durbrow
Mr. Barnett
Mr. Williamson
Mr. Tomlinson
Mr. Stabler

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Pella made an [redacted] elegant speech regretting the inability of the Italian Chamber to ratify the EDC at this time, and praising me as the "godfather" of European integration. Obviously this called for a rejoinder, and I think, as regards the exchange of flattery, we wound up rather even. At five o'clock Ellsworth and myself went to see De Gasperi. He told us of his firm determination to carry through on the EDC, but explained

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Parliamentary difficulties that have made present action impossible. This, of course, is not only a great disappointment to all of us, but will be a blow to those in Washington who had received word only two weeks ago from de Gasperi that he was confident of passage in the Lower House before April 1. As far as we can now estimate, ratification in the event of a favorable Italian election will not be possible before September. De Gasperi and his cohorts expect to win the election, which will take place around June 1, by a not [redacted] substantial popular majority.

I next called with Mr. Barnett on the Minister of Foreign Commerce, La Malfa. He talked to me of the problem of the necessity of the Italians imposing restrictions on their foreign commerce after the elections in order to stop the present heavy drain on their foreign balances. He is an alert and intelligent fellow, and I was much impressed by Pella and himself when they visited Washington and later when I saw them in Mexico City last year.

Tonight the Bunkers had a dinner for some forty people at the Villa Taverna. I saw a lot of old friends there and sat between Princess Sciarra and Countess Magistrati. The Bunkers are immensely popular in Rome, as they fully deserve to be. They are a charming couple and Ellsworth's standing with the Government is perfect.

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